

REMARKS

Claims 43-52 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,948,168 to Kuprionas ("Kuprionas"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,888 to Cooper et al. ("Cooper") and U.S. Patent No. 5,982,887 to Hirotsu ("Hirotsu"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from the references cited in the Office Action to reject the claims.

The presently amended claims recite an embodiment of the invention which is described at page 17, line 1 et seq. All of the independent claims 43, 47, 51 and 52 have been amended to recite receipt of first and second identification information at a second information processing apparatus from a first information processing apparatus via a network. The first identification information identifies at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus. The second identification information identifies a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus.

The second information processing apparatus is operable to verify whether the at least one of the first or second identification information matches data stored in a database. If there is a match, the second information processing apparatus is operable to request input of a password. When the password is valid, the second information processing apparatus permits the first information processing apparatus to execute the program. In this way, when verification determines that either the first identification information or the second identification information matches, a password can be used to provide a user with a chance to challenge one more verification.

That is, program execution rejection commands can be avoided by the owner inputting the password when playing a game with his or her friends. In such way, the owner of an individual recording medium such as a disk can be permitted to play a game using another information processing apparatus. In a particular example, a borrower of a disk with the game program recorded thereon does not necessarily have to borrow a memory card from the disk owner along with the disk to be permitted to play the game provided that the borrower has the password.

Also, when verification determines that both the first and second identification information match, a password can be required. That is, the claimed embodiment of the invention could be implemented in a system by which a parent could set a password to control access to a program by a child user at the first information processing apparatus. Through setting the password, the parent could prevent the child from accessing a game program, for example, even when a user ID belonging to the child, a device ID relating to the first information processing apparatus, or both are determined to be valid at the second information processing apparatus.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to teach these features of the presently pending claims. Applicants respectfully submit that none of Kuprionas, Cooper or Hirotsu nor the combination of those references teaches a system which requests input of a password *after* determining that information identifying the user, information identifying the first information processing apparatus or both are valid.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at page 17, line 1 *et seq.*, with particular reference to page 17, lines 15 through 25.


As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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